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November 25, 2009

TO: Each Supervisor

FROM: Jonathan E. Fielding, M.D., M.P.H. *JEF*
Director and Health Officer

SUBJECT: **PANDEMIC INFLUENZA H1N1 AND SEASONAL FLU PLANNING –
UPDATE #6**

This is a follow-up to the November 6, 2009 report to provide an update on the activities for pandemic H1N1 influenza (H1N1) and seasonal influenza conducted by the Department of Public Health (DPH).

H1N1 Vaccine Availability and Vaccination Activities

The availability of H1N1 vaccine has increased over the past couple of weeks, resulting in more private providers receiving vaccine and providing vaccine to privately insured patients and children. DPH staff continue to be responsive to provider inquiries about vaccine order status and projected vaccine availability.

As of November 21, 2009, approximately 1,440,354 doses of H1N1 vaccine have been received or are on order for Los Angeles County. Of that amount, the majority, roughly 1,129,854 has been directed to private providers, and 310,500 directed to DPH activities.

As of November 22, 2009, DPH has held 97 H1N1 vaccine clinics throughout the County, at which 175,593 doses of H1N1 vaccine and 3,641 doses of seasonal flu vaccine have been administered.

There will be no DPH vaccine clinics during the week of November 23, 2009 and during the Thanksgiving holiday weekend.

DPH is planning one final weekend of vaccine clinics to take place on December 4th through December 8th at large venues throughout the County. The site locations will be finalized this week and posted on the DPH website (publichealth.lacounty.gov). After these vaccine clinics, the H1N1 vaccine will be available for those who are under-insured or uninsured through DPH health centers and external partners, such as the Community Health Centers (CHCs) throughout the county that have been funded to provide H1N1 vaccinations at no cost to patients. The 211 hotline has a list of the participating CHCs.

H1N1 Activities in School-Based Vaccination Clinics

In addition to DPH vaccine clinics, private providers, and CHCs, DPH is working with school districts in order to increase the number of school-based H1N1 clinics being held throughout Los Angeles County. To date, fourteen K-12 school districts have received the H1N1 vaccines. These districts are currently conducting vaccine clinics at various school sites in the 14 districts. In addition, 31 colleges/universities have ordered H1N1 vaccine and have been administering vaccinations to their campus populations since mid-October.

Outreach and Public Education

DPH continues to reach out to the media and the public to reinforce the messages of prevention and vaccine eligibility. These efforts include messages for specific groups (e.g. monolinguals, African Americans), and contacts with and distribution of materials to community groups and agencies. In addition to continued education, DPH is planning a large scale media campaign, slated to begin in mid-December 2009. More information on the campaign can be found at FluShotLA.com.

Los Angeles County H1N1 Surveillance and Epidemiology

DPH is continuing to conduct surveillance of influenza-like-illness (ILI) in Los Angeles County. The following are the results of this H1N1 effort in recent weeks:

- The total number of positive flu tests increased slightly over the past several weeks, however, the percent of flu tests that tested positive decreased between late October and early November.
- Parainfluenza type I, rhinovirus, and respiratory syncytial Virus (RSV) are also circulating in Los Angeles County.
- In the early part of November 2009, fifty new ILI outbreaks (25 in elementary schools, 16 in other schools, 3 in healthcare facilities, 2 in a juvenile detention centers, and 4 in other facilities) were reported.
- The percent of emergency department visits due to ILI remains higher relative to the same time in previous years, especially in those 5-14 years old.
- Since the beginning of the pandemic in April 2009, there have been a total of 83 deaths and 214 intensive care unit (ICU) admissions due to laboratory confirmed H1N1. Since August there have been 33 deaths due to *any* influenza.

Estimated Value of H1N1 Vaccine on Los Angeles County

Since October 23, 2009, DPH has vaccinated over 175,000 people at 97 vaccine clinics held throughout the County. From these clinics, an estimated 26,000 cases of influenza will be prevented. Based on the best available data, it is estimated that these immunizations prevented 34 hospitalizations, two deaths, and avoided over \$600,000 in hospital costs. It is further estimated that the vaccine administered at DPH's vaccine clinics have prevented over 100,000 sick days.

Additionally, the most recent data from private providers indicate that they have immunized about 150,000 individuals. Since this is a comparable number to the number of immunizations DPH has administered, it is reasonable to estimate that similar benefits have also been achieved through the private sector to date.

Seasonal Influenza Planning

The minimum doses of seasonal flu vaccine still remaining can be obtained at select Public Health clinics throughout the county.

DPH will continue to keep you apprised as H1N1 planning and response activities continue. If you have any questions or need additional information, please let me know.

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c: Chief Executive Officer
Acting County Counsel
Executive Officer, Board of Supervisors